

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-9 are pending in the above-identified application. Support for the feature inserted into claim 1 is found in paragraph [0026] on page 12 of the present specification.

Previous Final Office Action

The previous Final Office Action dated December 9, 2004, indicated that the previous patent claims were rejected over the combination of Wu '851 (USP 6,506,851) in view of Takesue '991 (USP 6,251,991). The following distinctions are submitted in connection with the present claims and these previously cited references.

Distinctions between Present Invention and Wu '851

Wu '851 discloses a golf ball having a core and a cover layer, wherein the cover is formed of a polyurethane composition composed of a saturated prepolymer constituting an initiated polycaprolactone and a saturated diisocyanate, and a curing agent as noted at the bottom of column 4, for example. Thus, the golf ball cover composition of Wu '851 is a so-called "two-package" curing composition and is reacted so as to cure in a mold. One type of cover composition described by Wu '851 is discussed at column 8, lines 13-18 thereof.

Wu '851 fails to disclose a golf ball formed having a cover constituting a thermoplastic polyurethane elastomer as in the present invention. This type of elastomer of the present invention differs from the two-package curing type urethane composition described by Wu '851. Wu '851 further fails to disclose or suggest the golf ball cover thickness range, golf ball core deformation range, golf ball deformation range or golf ball cover hardness range having an upper

end point of 52 as recited in presently amended claim 1. All of these features fail to be addressed or described by Wu '851, such that Wu '851 fails to support any allegation regarding prima facie obviousness against the present claims.

Distinctions between the Present Invention and Takesue '991

Takesue '991 discloses a golf ball cover which is formed of a mixture of a thermoplastic polyurethane elastomer and polyolefins modified with a functional group. Such polyolefins are not required or needed in the golf ball cover composition of the present invention. In addition, the diisocyanate component used for the thermoplastic polyurethane elastomer of Takesue '991 does not include the specific cycloalkyl diisocyanate, i.e. "4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate, 1,3-bis(isocyanatomethyl)cyclohexane, isophorone diisocyanate and trans-1,4-cyclohexyl diisocyanate", as understood from the description of column 2, lines 2 to 64 of Takesue '991. Without the specific diisocyanate, the excellent technical efforts derived from the present invention, such as controllability, shot feel, rebound characteristics, scuff resistance, and yellowing resistance are not obtained, as having been explained so far.

In view of the above distinctions between the present invention and each of the Wu '851 and Takesue '991 references, it is submitted that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that the present application should be placed into condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is submitted for the reasons stated above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed condition for allowance.

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If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at

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Respectfully submitted,

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